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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 529
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION relative to extending the reporting date for a study assessing the housing needs of persons with mental illness in Tennessee as required by Senate Joint Resolution No. 279 of 1999.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) was directed by Senate Joint Resolution 279 of 1999 to conduct a study of the housing needs of persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, in organizing and conducting the study, the THDA is considering and incorporating the work of other organizations which have focused on the housing needs of persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the study will assess the housing needs of the mentally ill, focusing particularly on the availability and affordability of suitable housing that, in turn, will provide reasonable access to appropriate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the study will assess the availability of funding from all sources, governmental and private, which might assist in making housing more affordable to persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the study is attempting to identify social, economic, and political barriers to suitable, safe and affordable housing for persons with mental illness, and to propose ways to reduce or eliminate these barriers; and

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 529

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WHEREAS, based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the participants will attempt to develop a comprehensive plan with specific recommendations to improve the housing conditions of persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the results of the study, the comprehensive plan, and specific recommendations were to be reported to the Governor, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Department of Finance and Administration, and to the General Assembly, with a status report due February 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensiveness of the study, the lack of accessible relevant data, and the need to collect data from multiple sources has made it impossible to meet all of the objectives of the study within the initial time allocated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Tennessee Housing Development Agency shall have until August 1, 2000, to present the results of the study required by Senate Joint Resolution No. 279 of 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the THDA shall provide the results of the study to the Governor, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, and to the Chairmen of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the House Health and Human Resources Committee, and the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee.